

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7-14 are currently pending.

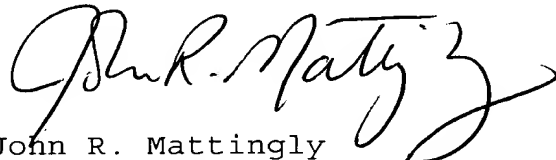
35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The rejection of claims 1, 3 and 9 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice. The cancellation of these claims should not be interpreted as an acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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Date: September 20, 2004